WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of applying a liquid to a substrate employing a template, the method comprising:

disposing the liquid between the substrate and the template;

positioning the template proximate to the substrate, the template comprising a first region and a second region, lying outside of the first region; and

moving the liquid over an area of the substrate in superposition with the first region by applying an electromagnetic field to the liquid.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein moving further includes moving the liquid over the area while preventing the liquid from moving to portions of the substrate in superimposition with the second region.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first region further includes patterned features comprising protrusions and recesses, wherein moving further includes compressing the liquid with the first region and solidifying the liquid to form a pattern conformal to the patterned features.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first region further includes a smooth surface, wherein moving further includes compressing the liquid with the first region and solidifying the liquid to form a pattern conformal to the smooth surface.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein moving the liquid further includes generating, with the template, the electromagnetic field.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein disposing further includes depositing, on the substrate, the liquid as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets, wherein moving further includes moving a portions of the liquid in a subset of the plurality of spaced-apart droplets toward a perimeter of the first region.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein disposing further includes depositing, on the substrate, the liquid as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets further including, before moving, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein disposing further includes depositing, on the substrate, the liquid as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets further including, after moving, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein disposing further includes depositing, on the substrate, the liquid as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets further including, while moving, spreading liquid associated with

the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

10. A method of applying a liquid to a substrate employing a template, the method comprising:

disposing the liquid on a surface of the substrate;

positioning the template proximate to the liquid; the template comprising a first region, a second region and a conducting layer, a first portion of which surrounds the first region; and

generating, with the template, an electromagnetic field to move the liquid to cover an area of the substrate in superimposition with the first region, while confining the liquid to be absent for portions of the substrate in superimposition with regions of the template outside of the first region.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first region further includes patterned features comprising protrusions and recesses, wherein positioning further includes compressing the liquid with the first region and solidifying the liquid to form a pattern conformal to the patterned features.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein disposing further includes depositing, on the substrate, the liquid as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets and generating the electric field further includes moving portions of the liquid in a subset of the plurality of

spaced-apart droplets toward a perimeter of the first region.

13. The method as recited in claim 12 further includes, before generating, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

14. The method as recited in claim 12 further includes, after generating, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

15. The method as recited in claim 12 further includes, while moving, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

16. A method of applying a liquid to a substrate employing a template, the method comprising:

disposing the liquid on a surface of the substrate as a plurality of spaced-apart droplets;

positioning the template proximate to the liquid, the template comprising a first region, a second region and a conducting layer, a first portion of which surrounds the first region, the first region having a plurality of protrusions and recesses formed therein; and

generating, with the template, an electromagnetic field to move the liquid over an area of the substrate in superimposition with the first region and to confine the liquid to be absent for portions of the substrate in superimposition with regions of the template outside of the first region.

17. The method as recited in claim 16 further includes, before generating, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

18. The method as recited in claim 16 further includes, after generating, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

19. The method as recited in claim 16 further includes, while moving, spreading liquid associated with the spaced-apart plurality of droplets by compressing the plurality of spaced-apart droplets between the template and the substrate.

20. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the first region further includes patterned features comprising protrusions and recesses, wherein positioning further includes compressing the liquid with the first region and

solidifying the liquid to form a pattern conformal to the patterned features.